



DES Newsletter - January 2012

Greetings Everyone,

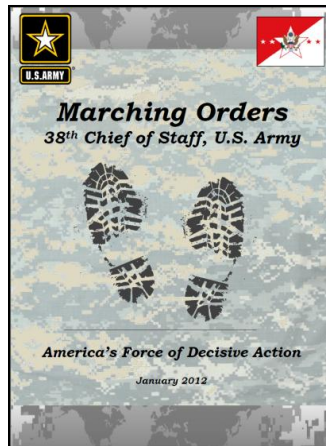
And welcome to the New Year! While it may appear to some that we're surrounded by storm clouds (the state of the budget is a good example) as we enter this new year, my goal is to keep you focused on the things that are truly important: accomplishing our mission of ensuring a safe and secure community; and taking care of our police officers, firefighters, and security guards. As any sailor knows (just ask Don Meyer), you're not always going to have calm seas when you're traveling in the sea of life. Storms are always out there and if you're not careful, they can sink you and take you down to the bottom. Within any type of organization, it's critical to have the ability to communicate. Information acts as a lighthouse in that if it's used properly, it will help you see the obstacles and keep you from crashing into the rocks so to speak. The intent of this newsletter is to keep you informed so you can maintain the right focus for you, your family, and our community.

One of the things that I enjoy doing as the Director is highlighting our success stories. Doing so gives you an understanding and appreciation for where we've been and how far we've come in our journey here at Picatinny Arsenal. When I first arrived here five years ago, I was flabbergasted by the quality of the fire apparatus and equipment that we had at the old fire station. Nothing like being told, "We don't test the fire hoses here because we're afraid they'll burst." Well, we've come a long way since that time and I'm proud to point out that, thanks to the tremendous efforts of Chief Ron Guidetti and his team of firefighters, we have one of the most modern fleet of fire apparatus in the Army. We're now at the point that we're able to help others reap from the benefits of our hard work. Up above, we see Fire Chief Ron Guidetti handing over the keys from Ladder 17 over to the Fire Department of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Lyons, New Jersey. My thanks to all involved for making great things happen.



In case you haven't noticed, I oftentimes write about things which hit "close to home" (so to speak). The reason behind that is to help dispel the thought that, "It can never happen here," or "It can never happen to me." Those are two key indicators for *complacency*, which is something that we must continually battle within the Emergency Services profession. In this case, the FBI arrested an individual who allegedly wanted to commit an act of terrorism in Tampa, Florida. That's close to home for me since one of my sons and his wife both went to college in

Tampa. What's scarier is the fact that the suspect originally wanted to go after U.S. Army targets, but later allegedly changed his mind and decided to attack the nightclub area in the Ybor City section of Tampa (and yes...our family has also frequented this area). This plan involved car bombings, hostage taking, and finishing it off with a suicide bombing as law enforcement officers tried to arrest him. The plan also illustrates the impact that Homegrown Violent Extremists (HVEs) are having in our country. HVE is still a relatively new term, but it is something that we must be prepared to face and handle. Most people would consider this to be very disturbing, but we can use it as a reminder that we must remain vigilant in all that we do to protect the community. Think about it.



Earlier, I mentioned the fact that it's important for us to communicate and to keep informed about the issues which affect all of us. To that end, it helps to have an understanding of the way that our "higher-ups" see us going. General Raymond Odierno, the Chief of Staff of the Army (CSA), General has published his *Marching Orders* as a means to communicate his vision and expectations. You can read all about what he has to say by going to this link: <http://usarmy.vo.llnwd.net/e2/c/downloads/232478.pdf>. Speaking of the CSA, he recently made some comments that are pertinent to all of us serving within the Installation Management Command (IMCOM). He said, "As we face an uncertain global environment and constrained resources, IMCOM will be asked to increase effectiveness and efficiencies while providing quality services and support to our Soldiers and Families." He also added that, "The Soldiers, Civilians, and Contractors of IMCOM know their value and purpose -- to provide our Soldiers and Families the best possible support commensurate with the sacrifices they have made on behalf of the Nation. Yes, we will have challenges in the future, but we still have a critical purpose for being here so stay tuned.

Most of you have heard me talk many times before about the importance of professional development training. All supervisors should have received a notice that they're required to complete supervisory development training at least once every three years. The Army Management Staff College has designed a new online course to satisfy that requirement. It's called the Supervisor Development Course and the good news is that you don't have to be a supervisor to complete the course. To enroll, just go to: <https://www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/chrtas/student/login.aspx?caller=1> and follow the instructions. Think of it as a way to make or keep yourself knowledgeable and competitive in an ever changing world.



Hang in there.

Richard J. Karlsson
Director of Emergency Services